

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 EB-08 TRSE-00 SAB-02 ACDA-12 HA-05
NRC-05 OMB-01 AF-10 EA-10 EUR-12 /154 W
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R 061140Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 540
INFO USUN NEW YORK 829
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION HAVANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 2616

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

DEPT PASS NON-ALIGNED COLLECTIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG

SUBJ: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: MAY 15-20 MEETING OF THE NON-
ALIGNED COORDINATING BUREAU (NACB) AT HAVANA

REF: STATE 142045

1. BEGIN SUMMARY:
SRI LANKAN DELEGATION TO NACB HAVANA WENT ON TO NEW YORK.
FIST MEMBER GSLDEL RETURNED TO COLOMBO A FEW DAYS AGO AND
PROVIDED US WITH FOLLOWING INFORMATION. NO SRI LANKAN EMBASSY
IN HAVANA AND PRESSURE ON SMALL GSLUN IN NEW YORK APPARENTLY
RESULTED IN LACK OF ANY CLASSIFIED REPORTING TO MINISTRY
PRIOR HIS RETURN. END SUMMARY.

2. GSL OFFICIAL DESCRIBED GSL AS GENERALLY SATISFIED WITH HAVANA
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MEETING. SINGLE GSL INTEREST WAS FONMIN HAMEED'S GENERAL DIS-
ARMAMENT PROPOSAL WHICH WAS WELL RECEIVED. THIS GSL INITI-
ATIVE VIEWED AS MATTER OF PRESTIGE RATHER THAN EXPECTED TO
HAVE ANY GENUINE EFFECT ON ARMS LIMITATIONS.

3. CONTENTIOUS ISSUES. GSL DELEGATION WAS PLEASED THAT BLACK
AFRICANS DID NOT BRING THEIR DIFFERENCES TO HAVANA, AND PRE-

VIOUSLY AGREED POSITIONS ON AFRICAN MATTERS WERE SMOOTHLY ADOPTED. THIS WAS IN CONTRAST TO NORTH AFRICANS CONFRONTATION OVER WESTERN SAHARA. POLISARIO HAS OFFICE IN HAVANA AND WAS VERY ACTIVE OUTSIDE THE CONFERENCE CHAMBER.

4. ECONOMIC ISSUES. GSL OFFICER SAID THAT PAPERS ON ECONOMIC ISSUES WERE SLOW IN COMING AND NOT AVAILABLE WHEN HE LEFT HAVANA. HE WAS UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES WERE PARTICULARLY ACTIVE ON THESE PROBLEMS. HE RECALLED THAT THERE HAD BEEN A LOT OF CRITICISM OF JAMACIA FOR TALKING RADICAL BUT NOT UNDERTAKING "TRULY SOCIALIST" MEASURES WHICH WERE NEEDED THERE.

5. CUBA AND AFRICA. GSL OFFICIAL WAS MUCH RELIEVED THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO DISCUSSION OF THIS QUESTION. SOMALIS HAD PUT OUT SOME ANTI-CUBAN PROPAGANDA WHICH WAS IGNORED AT MEETING. GSL OFFICIAL SEEMED TO BE REFLECTING HAVANA ATMOSPHERE WHEN HE SAID THAT EVERYONE THERE WANTED MEETING TO BE "SUCCESSFUL", WHICH WAS DEFINED AS "HARMONIOUS". ANYONE CRITICIZING ANOTHER "NON-ALIGNED" COUNTRY OR DISSENTING FROM OSTENSIBLE CONSENSUS WAS LIKELY TO BE VIEWED AS A DISRUPTIVE ELEMENT. HE DESCRIBED YUGOSLAVS AS PARTICULARLY DEVOTED TO SMOTHERING CRITICISM AND ELIMINATING RESERVATIONS FROM CONSENSUS.

6. PUERTO RICO. GSL OFFICIAL VOLUNTEERED THAT USG WAS PROBABLY DISAPPOINTED THAT GSL HAD NOT RESERVED ON PUERTO RICAN CONFIDENTIAL

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LANGUAGE. HOWEVER, IN GSL VIEW, LANGUAGE WAS NO WORSE THAN PREVIOUS YEARS' AND REFLECTED NON-ALIGNED CONSENSUS. HE AVERRED THAT GSL WOULD ONLY HAVE RESERVED IF LANGUAGE HAD BEEN MORE SHARPLY ANTI-US.

7. KOREA. GSL OFFICIAL SAID NORTH KOREANS WERE THEIR USUAL OBJECTIONABLE SELVES. SINCE GSL HAD RECENTLY ENTERED INTO FULL DIPLOMATIC WITH ROK AND HOPED FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FROM SEOUL, GSL HAD RESERVED ON LANGUAGE ABOUT PROVOCATIVE "MANEUVERS".

8. MIDDLE EAST. SINCE GSL POSITION IS TO ENDORSE WHATEVER THE ARABS CAN AGREE TO, OUTCOME OF EGYPTIAN/SYRIAN DEBATE WAS PATIENTLY AWAITED AND APPROVED.

9. DISARMAMENT. SO-CALLED GSL INITIATIVE WAS MAIN INTEREST AT HAVANA AND GSL IS PLEASED THAT ALL PRESENT FOUND IT ACCEPTABLE.

10. COMMENT: OFFICIAL WAS IMPRESSED WITH RELAXED ATMOSPHERE OF CUBA. IT SUGGESTED TO HIM THAT COMMUNISM IS NOT ALWAYS GRIM AS IN USSR. HE WAS DELIGHTED TO FIND "SOCIALISM WITH JOIE

DE VIVRE". GSL OFFICIAL WAS IMPRESSED WITH LARGE NUMBER OF AMERICAN TOURISTS IN HAVANA DURING NACB MEETING. HE SAW SIGNIFICANCE IN AMERICANS STAYING AT HOTEL IBRE, FORMER HILTON. GSL OFFICIAL NOTED THAT THAT THERE WERE AUSTERITIES IN HAVANA AND PRICES IN HOTELS WERE HIGHER THAN IN NEW YORK. HE APPARENTLY ACCEPTED WITHOUT CAVIL CUBAN EXPLANATIONS THAT THIS WAS DUE TO AMERICAN EMBARGO.

IN SUM, OFFICIAL REFLECTED GSL INTEREST IN NAM GATHERINGS AS INTRINSICLY WORTHWHILE BY PROVIDING PLATFORMS FROM WHICH SMALL COUNTRY STATESMEN CAN MAKE HIGH-LEVEL PRONOUNCEMENTS WITH HOPES THAT ENDORSEMENTS OF NAM WILL NOT ALLOW THEM TO BE IGNORED BY REST OF WORLD. AT SAME TIME, GSL HAS NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT STRENGTH OF BLIND UNITY PREVAILING AT PUBLIC CONCLUSIONS
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OF THESE MEETINGS OR THAT RHETORIC WILL BE TRANSFORMED INTO REALITY.
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Message Attributes

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